

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

A series of similar rigid elements, in the form of generally rectangular steel blocks 20, are held in tight registering engagement by a tensioned flexible steel strip 22 which is fixed at one end to the end block 20A and at the other end to the opposite end block 20B. Between these two end blocks 20A, 20B the strip 22 passes freely through aligned vertical slots 24 in the ~~intermediate~~ blocks 20. It will be understood that certain of the blocks 20 are omitted from FIG. 1 in order to show the underlying structure more clearly. In reality, except at the bend in the guide 10, the blocks 20 are maintained in tight face-to-face engagement all along the strip 22 by the tension in the strip which imparts a compressive force to the blocks.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

A series of similar rigid hollow elements 414, moulded from plastics material, are connected to one another along one edge 416 of the series of elements for rotation about pivots 418 having substantially parallel axes~~418~~. To this end the front of each element 414 has a short pair of arms 420 which embrace a flange 422, FIG. 3(b), on the rear of the preceding element, the arms and flange having aligned holes 424 through which passes a steel pivot pin (not shown). These pivot pins allow each element 414 to rotate relative to the next element such that the elements may assume a linearly aligned configuration wherein each element is in registering engagement with the next across its full width, as seen for the elements at the top right and bottom of FIG. 2, or may separate from its neighbours at its outer edges to allow the elements to change direction through the housing 400 as will be described. It will be understood that certain components are omitted from FIG. 2, for example the housing half 400B and some of the elements 414, in order to show the structure more clearly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

In order to maintain the elements 414 which project beyond the exit 404 linearly aligned in a substantially rigid self-supporting column 440, a flexible, substantially inelastic toothed belt 426 is provided. This may be made of the same material as is used for timing belts in motor vehicles. The belt 426 is fixed by staking or welding to the end element 414A and its teeth 428 engage corresponding teeth 430--FIGS. 3(b) and 6--recessed into the edges of the elements 414 along the opposite edges of the elements to the pivots 418. The belt 426 is maintained in engagement with the elements 414 throughout the length of the projecting column by a roller assembly 432 mounted in the housing 400 and which comprises two rollers 434 (FIG. 5) (~~FIG. 3~~) which press the belt 426 into proper engagement with the elements 414. The engagement of the belt teeth 428 with the element teeth 430 all along the length of the projecting column of elements prevents these from pivoting relative to one another and maintains them tight up against one another.